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COUNTRY Australia/USSD

SUBJECT Soviet Interest in Underground Installations  
in Lower Austria

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

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# Soviet Interest in a Grotto in Winterbrühl

1. Several years ago a gypsum mine was opened at the Lake grotto in Hinterbrühl, Lower Austria and approximately two years ago, the owner, Kommerzialrat Friedrich Fischer, a resident of Wilhelmstrasse 19, Vienna XII, leased this property to one Eduard Gwozd, Vienna IV, Meyringergasse 4/23a. Gwozd has been operating an open pit (Schaubergwerk) mine at the grotto.
2. About three weeks ago, Soviet officers and soldiers went for the first time to survey the area and 14 days ago several Soviet officers and technicians again appeared, this time to inspect the grotto. A few days later a Soviet officer from Baden advised Eduard Gwozd that soldiers from an engineering unit would start taking measurements of the gypsum mine. In compliance with a Soviet order, Gwozd submitted two photographic copies of a map of the grotto to the Soviet komendatura in Mßdling. Thereupon he was ordered to release the grotto to Soviet authorities. The Soviets demanded his key and then sealed the grotto entrance.
3. On 11 December 1950 Eduard Gwozd was finally summoned to the komendatura in Mßdling where he was informed that he could continue managing the property, but that he or some person delegated by him must be available at all times and that he would not be permitted to make any changes at the mine.

Quartz Mine Between Loosdorf and Melk

4. It has been reported that the Soviets have opened the entrances to a quartz mine on the Wachtberg between Lonsdorf and Molk, Lower Austria. During the second World War about 15,000 persons were employed in vast tunnels and halls built in the Wachtberg which is a massive formation of sandstone.

25X1A **Content:** During the war the 6,000 square meters lake was pumped dry to clear the area for a Heinkel aircraft plant; the remainder of this area was ostensibly unoccupied.

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